

melted into tenderness, and his eyes overflowed with tears. It was in vain to attempt to conceal from them any longer, what his burdened soul laboured to expose. So he immediately ordered, with a loud voice, all his servants and attendants to leave the room; which they having done, he first gave vent to his feelings, by weeping aloud, so that all who were in the house heard him, and were astonished at his apparent distress. All his brethren were filled with amazement at this unaccountable change in his behaviour, till by his words, as soon as he had power to speak, he surprized them still more: "I (saith he) am Joseph; doth my father yet live?" Nothing could sufficiently describe, the effect these words produced upon them. They found themselves, in that moment, in circumstances which before they had not the least conception of. Guilt and horror seized their minds, and confusion sat upon their countenances. Startled at so unexpected an event,

vent, they drew back, and almost questioned if what they heard and saw was real. But Joseph encouraged them to come near to him; and he said, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt; and don't let the recollection of that wicked conduct of yours too much distress you; because it was the providence of God which brought me here, that I might be advanced to this great honour, to be as a father to Pharaoh the King; and an instrument of saving your lives in this time of famine." And with many such words he comforted them, and cheerfully entertained them that day. And the Egyptians were exceeding glad, and made merry, when they heard that the relations of Joseph were come down thither. Pharaoh, when he was informed of it, ordered, that they should take provision for their present wants, and go into Canaan, and bring down their father Jacob to Egypt, that he might be fed, and dwell in the very best of the land.